

Did you know...



Children love to learn about and explore the world around them. Information or nonfiction books are one way they can do this. Information books contain photos or drawings that show animals, vehicles, people, etc. that help them make connections to what they see and hear. Information books also introduce children to a lot of words that will help build their vocabularies. Knowing many words will help your child recognize and understand written words and language when it is time to learn to read.

Some information books have more words than young children can sit and listen to. It is okay to look at the pictures and talk about them, or read the main text on the page without reading all of the words. Young children like to point to things that interest them, so take that as a clue about what to spend time on while you read information books.

Here's how...

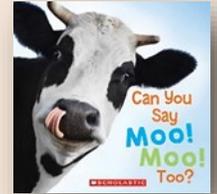


- ❖ Create a book that has pictures of family, friends, and pets by using a photo album, scrapbook, or gluing pictures onto sheets of paper. Write each person's name next to their picture and let your child look at it often to learn familiar people's names.
- ❖ Check out books from your local library about the things your child is interested in. Is it cars, dogs, or balls? You can search by topic in your library's catalog for the things your child loves.
- ❖ Information books can teach concepts such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. It is good for your young child to be introduced to these concepts so they are familiar with them when they go to school.
- ❖ Find information books in the language you speak at home.

Read



Can You Say Moo! Moo! Too? by Anna Bardaus



Beginning with "I say 'moo, moo!' Can you say 'moo, moo,' too?" this book asks children to join along in listening and repeating, a critical brain-building activity for children ages 6—36 months.

Here are some other great board books by Anna Bardaus:

Amazing Feelings

This Car Needs a Bridge

In My Neighborhood

Y Is for Yum Yum Yum

Love Is You and Me

Choosing Books



More information board books...

Baby Animals (Say and Play series), by Sterling Publishing

Baby Teeth, by Annie Kubler

Global Babies (Global Fund for Children Books)

Roadwork, by Sally Sutton

Families (Babies Everywhere), by Star Bright Books

I Spy, by Jean Marzollo (series)

Look and Learn series, by National Geographic

Talk



Older toddlers: Fill a clear plastic water bottle halfway with rice. Add a few small beads or buttons of different colors and shapes. Add a little more rice, so that the bottle is about 2/3 full. Glue, then tape the cap on so that your toddler cannot open the bottle. When the glue is dry, ask, “Can you find the blue bead?” “Can you find the square button?” Let your toddler tip and turn the bottle to try to find the objects inside the rice. Always monitor your child with this toy.

Ready to Write



Make a tunnel by taping paper towel tubes to the wall. Let your toddler drop small objects through the top. Experiment with different angles, or tape several tubes together. Pinching and dropping the small objects will help strengthen the little muscles in your child’s fingers, which will help her grip a pencil later on.



Play



Dancing Animals

Tune: Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush

This is the way the horses prance, (“trot” in place, knees high)

Horses prance, horses prance.

This is the way the horses prance,
Dancing in the morning.

Continue...match actions to words

... ducks waddle...

... bunnies hop...

... worms wiggle...

... cats stretch...



This is fun to do in front of a mirror with your child. Be silly and have fun!

Sing



Cows in the Barn

Tune: The Wheels on the Bus

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

Moo, moo, moo; moo, moo, moo.

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,

All day long.

Additional verses:

The ducks in the pond go quack, quack, quack...

The sheep in the field go baa, baa, baa...

The piggies in the pen go oink, oink, oink...

Try other objects and sounds:

The cars on the road go beep, beep, beep...

The zipper on the coat goes zip, zip, zip...

The train on the track goes choo, choo, choo...

Hear the tune at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
wheels-on-the-bus](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus)



At your library...



Libraries are helping young children develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills through age-appropriate storytimes and programs. Contact your library to find out what is available in your area.